

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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DRAFTED BY ARA:BR:RBALLANTYNE:HLB:MPH

APPROVED BY ARA:WGBOWDLER

USOAS - MR. MCNEIL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 192472

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BR, CS, VE, CO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE OAS ACTION ON CUBAN SANCTIONS.

1. BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR ARAUJO CASTRO CALLED AUGUST 30 ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER TO DISCUSS CUBA ISSUE AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY ON SHOES.

2. ON CUBA ISSUE, AMB. CASTRO APPEARED WELL AWARE OF DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN OAS, COMMISSION OF INQUIRY CONCEPT, ETC. AND WANTED TO KNOW WHAT USG VIEWS WERE. HE STARTED OFF WITH LENGTHY EXPOSITION OF HIS OWN. HE SAID THAT IN ERA OF "POLITICAL PERMISSIVENESS" LA COUNTRIES WOULD BE ASKING "WHY NOT RENEW TIES WITH CUBA", AND THAT WITH MOVEMENT UNDERWAY EVENTS COULD SNOW-BALL QUICKLY ONCE SLIDE TOWARD RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS BEGAN. HE BELIEVED CUBA PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HAVING OAS COUNTRIES RE-ESTABLISH RELATIONS IN VIOLATION OF UNDERTAKINGS WITHIN OAS. AS FOR LA COUNTRIES HE THOUGHT THERE WAS UNDERWAY A GENERAL TREND TOWARDS REVOCATION OF SANCTIONS.

3. AMBASSADOR CASTRO DISCOUNTED IMPORTANCE OF CUBAN ISSUE

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IN LONG-TERM FOR LA, REGARDING IT AS SUBVERSIVE THREAT

ONLY WITH SOVIET HELP. HE MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THIS WAS HIS PERSONAL VIEW AND THAT OTHERS, (PRESUMABLY MILITARY LEADERS IN BRAZIL), WERE INCLINED TO SEE CONTINUING THREAT FLOWING FROM PRESENCE OF COMMUNIST CUBA IN HEMISPHERE. HE DREW PARALLEL BETWEEN PLACE OF CUBAN ISSUE IN "FUNERAL PARLOR" OF OAS AND EXPECTATION OF AN EROTIC SCENE IN AN OTHERWISE HOPELESSLY DULL FILM.

4. POSITION OF GOB, AS PRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR CASTRO, WAS OPPOSED TO ANY ACTION WHICH IMPLIED CHANGE OF POLICY IN DIRECTION OF RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS. BRAZIL WAS NOT HAPPY WITH PROPOSAL FOR COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY, BUT PREPARED TO EXAMINE ITS RECOMMENDATION AND IN MEANTIME SUPPORTED NO BASIC CHANGE. BRAZIL PREFERRED TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE'S REPORT UNTIL NOVEMBER OR EVEN LATER, IF POSSIBLE.

5. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY RESPONDED TO CASTRO'S COMMENTS WITH BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF FACIO'S INITIATIVE AS WE UNDERSTOOD IT. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA, AND VENEZUELA HAD AGREED TO PROCEED WITH COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY. OUR POSITION IS THAT WE PREFER NO CONSIDERATION OF CUBA ISSUE UNTIL LATER IN THE YEAR. WE ARE PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO CONSIDER INITIATIVE ON COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY IF SPONSORS DECIDE TO PROCEED. WE WILL WANT TO EXAMINE SPECIFICS OF THE PROPOSAL CAREFULLY. REFERENCES WE HAVE SEEN TO POSSIBLE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ARE NOT SATISFACTORY. BOWDLER STRESSED THAT USG INTERESTED IN CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH GOB AS SITUATION EVOLVED. INGERSOLL

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